

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4729

1. Name

Historic 700-718 North Bradford Street

and / common

2. Location

street & number 700-718 North Bradford Street

city, town	Baltimore
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state & zip code	Maryland	21205	county
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3. Classification

Ownership

— public
X private
both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☐ not applicable

X occupied
— unoccupied
work in progress

Accessible

X yes: restricted
 ___ yes: unrestricted
 no

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

street & number

city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records

street & number	Clarence Mitchell Courthouse	folio
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city, town	Baltimore	State	Maryland
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6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
<p> </p>

date	federal	state	county	local
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depository for survey records

city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it is today.

This row of ten two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built in 1900 by John C. Mueller, a builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. The brick houses were originally painted a dark red, with the basement area painted white to imitate the marble basements of more expensive houses. Now, most of the row is covered with formstone.

After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20th century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two story houses had decorated friezes—the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were always painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long brackets, decorated with rosettes, that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. A row of dentils is set just beneath the crown molding.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are brick. All windows are filled with 1/1 sash. Doorways have a single-light transom, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on medium-height basements lit by a double-light sash. Each front door is reached by three or four brick, concrete, metal, or marble steps.

700 N. Bradford St. retains its original storefront, though all openings are boarded over. The entire storefront is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding set above a frieze area decorated with alternating fleur-de-lis and three vertical marks, all created with a jig saw.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify

Specific dates 1900

Builder/Architect John C. Mueller

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as representing the very last type of small street houses to be built, in the period c. 1905 – 1909, when a new city ordinance outlawed building houses on streets less than 40' wide. The houses were built by John C. Mueller, a builder of working class houses in East Baltimore, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

Mueller sold the houses he built on N. Bradford St. to Bohemian owner-occupants who received their mortgages from the variety of Bohemian community-based building and loans. Many followed the trade of tailor. He also built identical houses on the east side of the block.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

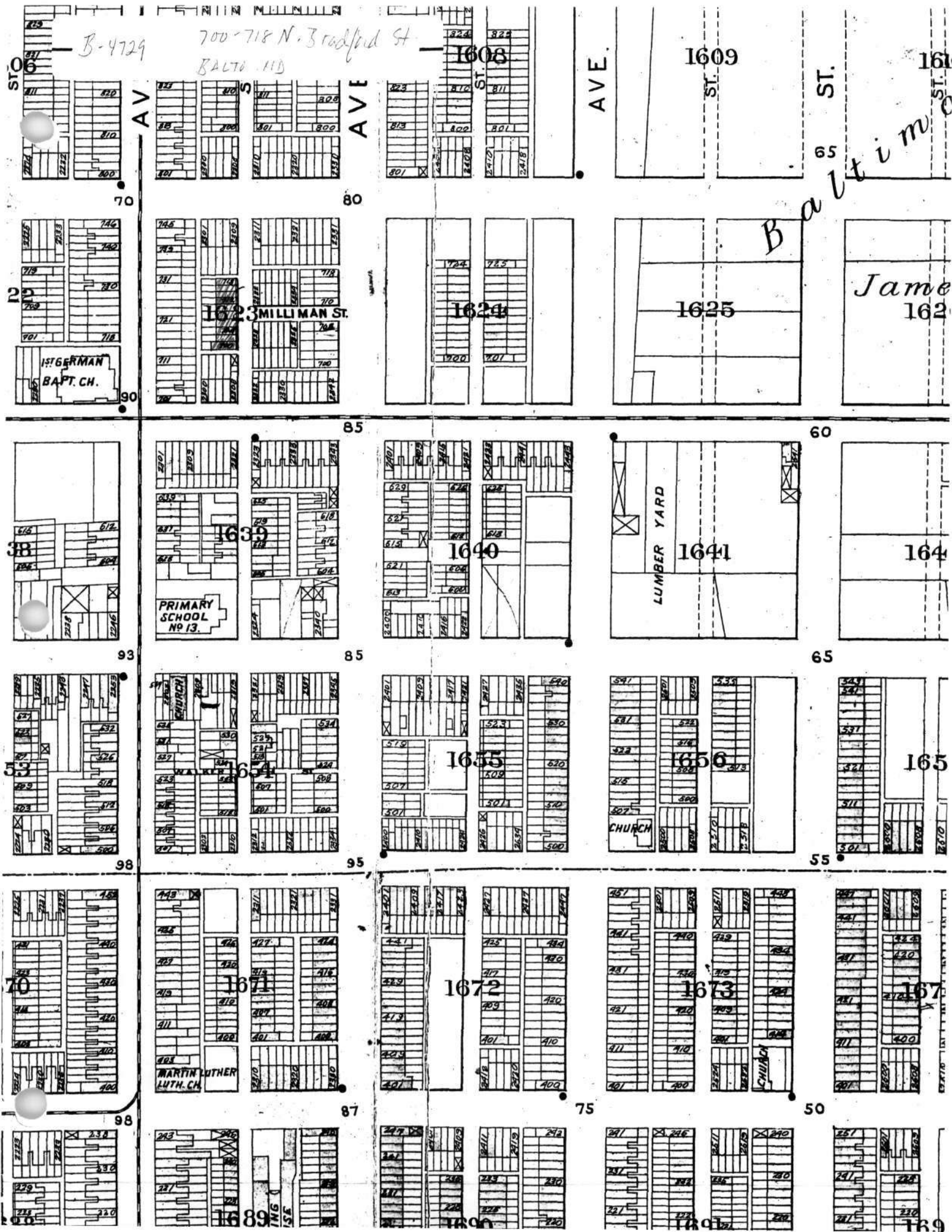
Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



ST. 6
B-4729
700-718 N. Bradford St.
BALTO. MD

1ST GERMAN
BAPT. CH.

38

53

70

90

AVE

1623 MILLMAN ST.

1639
PRIMARY
SCHOOL
No 13

1654
CHURCH

1671
MARTIN LUTHER
LUTH. CH.

1689

AVE.

1624

1640

1655

1672

1690

1609

1625

LUMBER YARD
1641

1656
CHURCH

1673

1691

161

Jame
162

164

165

167

169

B-4729
700-718 N. Bradford Street
Block 1623, Lots 080-089
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

